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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/588,538

08/07/2006

Reinhold Meier

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8360

23280 7590 09/15/2010  
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EXAMINER

PAIK, SANG YEOP

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3742

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/15/2010

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/588,538	<b>Applicant(s)</b> MEIER, REINHOLD	
	<b>Examiner</b> SANG Y. PAIK	<b>Art Unit</b> 3742	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 June 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6 and 8-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6 and 8-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                    | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. The finality of the office action of 12/08/2009 has been reconsidered and is withdrawn in light of new ground of rejection. The applicant filed an amendment after final on 3/01/2010 which has been entered by the examiner, and the claims filed on 3/1/2010 are considered pending in the application and are treated on the merit in this office action.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mega et al (US 2004/0169022) in view of Stone (US 2,662,277) or Boetcher et al (US 2,288,433), and Pratt et al (US 5,245,155) or Guo (US 2004/0191064).

Mega shows joining two gas turbine components wherein the components (52, 56) are welded temporarily and which is then further welded a YAG laser beam. However, Mega does not show laser powder built-up welding.

Boetcher or Stone show that it is well known in the art to bring the welding components together and provide an initial welding to hold the components together before filler metals are introduced to complete the welding process.

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Pratt and Gou show that it is well known in the art to weld gas turbine components with a laser powdered-up welding to join two gas turbine components together.

In view of Boetcher or Stone, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adapt Mega with a filler metal to further weld join two adjoining parts after an auxiliary weld using a laser or electron beam welding, and in view of Pratt or Gou, it would have been obvious to further adapt Mega with a laser powdered up welding as a well known method to provide the filler metals as they are welded via laser to join the turbine components.

4. Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mega in view of Stone or Boetcher, and Pratt or Guo as applied to claims 6 and 8 above, and further in view of Baumann (US 2,492,833) or Lysholm (US 2,200,287).

Mega in view of Stone or Boetcher, and Pratt or Guo shows the method claimed except for the components comprise at least two rotor discs with an axially extending flange.

Baumann or Lysholm shows gas turbines having rotor discs with axially extending flanges that are welded together.

In view of Baumann or Lysholm, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adapt Mega, as modified by Stone or Boetcher, and Pratt or Guo, with the rotor discs having an axially extending flange as such rotor discs are well known in the gas turbines which allow for alternatively secured attachment to each other.

### ***Response to Arguments***

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5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SANG Y. PAIK whose telephone number is (571) 272-4783. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tu Hoang can be reached on (571) 272-4780. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/SANG Y PAIK/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3742

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